

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:  
a housing;  
an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and  
5 back surfaces of a recording sheet;  
a sheet feeding mechanism configured and adapted for feeding at  
least a portion of a recording sheet to a location outside of the housing to expedite  
drying of the ink drops after the first side of the sheet has been printed, and for  
feeding the dried printed sheet back into the housing for printing on the second side  
10 of the sheet.
2. An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:  
a housing;  
an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and  
back surfaces of a recording sheet;  
15 a sheet feeding mechanism located within said housing for feeding the  
recording sheet in a first direction at least partially outside said housing to expedite  
drying of the ink drops after one side of the sheet has been printed and before a  
second side of the sheet is printed, and in a second direction for feeding the dried  
one-side printed sheet back into the housing for printing on the second side of the  
20 sheet.
3. An inkjet recording apparatus, comprising:  
a housing;

an inkjet recording head arranged to eject ink drops onto front and back surfaces of a recording sheet;

a first sheet ejection path configured and adapted for transporting sheets printed by said ink jet head out of the housing;

5                   a second sheet ejection path, comprising a switchback mechanism configured and adapted for transporting at least a portion of a recording sheet printed on the first surface to a location outside the housing to expedite drying of the print on the first surface and for returning the recording sheet printed on the first surface into the housing for printing on the recording sheet second surface.

10           4.       An inkjet recording apparatus as defined in Claim 3, further comprising:

a first sheet diverting mechanism configured and adapted for diverting the printed recording sheet to the first sheet ejection path and a second position for diverting the printed sheet to the second sheet ejection path; and

15                   a second sheet diverting mechanism having a first position for directing a recording sheet in the second sheet ejection path to the switchback mechanism and a second position for directing the recording sheet from the switchback mechanism to the ink jet recording head for printing on the second surface of the recording sheet.